

**Operational  
National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD)  
Map Viewer  
NWS Product Description  
Document (PDD)  
March 2015**

**Part 1 - Mission Connection**

- a. Product Description – The [National Digital Forecast Database \(NDFD\)](#) contains a seamless mosaic of digital weather forecasts from National Weather Service (NWS) field offices and the National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP). The operational Map Viewer will enable users to interactively zoom and roam NDFD forecast grids displayed at full resolution.
- b. Purpose – Operational static images displayed on weather.gov were conceived and implemented nearly a decade ago, and do not take advantage of the capabilities of modern web browsers. It is impractical to generate static images from the full-resolution NDFD for all forecast times. The operational NDFD Viewer provides more efficient and effective data display and interaction. It enables users to interactively zoom and roam NDFD forecast grids displayed at full spatial and temporal resolution.
- c. Audience - The general public, emergency managers, electronic media, NOAA, and other federal, state, and local government agencies.
- d. Presentation Format – The operational NDFD Map Viewer can be accessed at:  
  
<http://preview.weather.gov/graphical>
- e. Feedback Method – The comment period for the experimental NDFD Map Viewer occurred from December, 2012 - December 31, 2013. Over 3100 comments were received. While the majority of the comments were positive, some users expressed concern with the responsiveness of the page. Our expectation is that the performance of the experimental NDFD Map Viewer will improve when implemented on the operational weather.gov system as a result of greater web-serving capacity.

General information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:  
<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:  
[nws.ndfd@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ndfd@noaa.gov)

## **Part II – Technical Description**

### **a. Format and Science:**

The operational Map Viewer is in response to numerous comments and suggestions for more efficient and effective data display and interaction. The Map Viewer takes advantage of the capabilities of modern web browsers. It enables users to interactively zoom and roam NDFD forecast grids displayed at full spatial and temporal resolution.

This map viewer is Section 508 and DOC security compliant.

**b. Product Availability** – This operational map viewer is expected to be available consistently 24/7 via standard NWS web services. The underlying NDFD forecasts are updated according to NWS Directives and Instructions.

**c. Additional Information** – Detailed information about the NDFD is also [available online](#).